



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

Mon., August 28, 2023

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting

bold underlined time = invited guest or advertised hearing
(all other times are approximate)

Location: Town Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, Gill

5:30 PM Call to Order (If the meeting is being videotaped, announce that fact. If remote participation will occur, announce member & reason, & need for roll call voting)

5:30 PM Nuisance Dog Hearing for two dogs licensed to David Powlovich, 29 West Gill Rd

Old Business

- Review of Minutes: 8/29/22, 9/12/22, 10/11/22, 11/21/22, 12/5/22, 12/19/22, 1/30/23, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/28, 3/30, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/20, 7/3, 7/17, 8/14
- Riverside Sewer System – Update on process to expand Sewer Commission to include appointed members
- Amendment to MOU between Town and FRCOG for a 2nd contribution of \$2,500 toward shared legal services related to FERC relicensing of FirstLight

New Business

- Board of Assessors- Recognition of Diane Sumrall becoming a Mass. Accredited Assessor
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
 - Hazardous Waste Collection Day – Sat., Sept. 23 @ GCC. Pre-registration required
 - Rec Committee Square Dance – Sat., Sept 23, 7-10 PM @ Town Hall
 - Gill Fall Harvest Festival – Sun., Sept. 24, Noon – 3 PM @ Town Common
- Warrants
FY24 #4 Vendors (\$71,581.36) & Payroll (\$38,125.02) – reviewed & signed on 8/14/23
FY24 #5 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon. 9/4		Labor Day Holiday	
Mon 9/11	5:30 PM	Selectboard Meeting	Town Hall
Mon 9/25	5:30 PM	Selectboard Meeting	Town Hall

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



The hearing has been
rescheduled to Monday,
August 28, 2023 at 5:30 PM
at the Town Hall.

August 7, 2023

David Powlovich
29 West Gill Road
Gill, MA 01354

Dear Mr. Powlovich:

This letter is to inform you that at the request of Animal Control Officer Judie Garceau the Selectboard of the Town of Gill will hold a public hearing regarding a complaint of your dogs being a nuisance due to excessive barking.

Pursuant to the requirements of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 140, Section 157, the hearing is scheduled for ~~Monday, August 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM~~ in the second floor meeting room of the Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill. Please be advised the Selectboard meetings are usually covered by newspaper reporters and video recorded for later broadcast on a local cable access television channel.

You have the right to bring witnesses and to be represented by legal counsel. If the charges are proven, the Selectboard may make such order concerning remedial action to ameliorate the cause of the nuisance behavior.

This is a serious matter and you are encouraged to give it your full and immediate attention.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns at 413-863-9347.

Sincerely,

Ray Purington
Town Administrator

Cc: Judie Garceau, Regional Animal Control Officer
Chris Redmond, Police Chief
Complainants

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2023

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: Charles Garbiel and Randy Crochier

Members Absent: Greg Snedeker

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Tom Hodak, Rick King, Bill Kimball, Gene Beaubien, Joe Williams, Doreen Stevens, Chris Pelletier, Kate Savage, Julian Mendoza, Peter Conway, Maurice Dumas

Other Business – Fire Department Brush Truck: Fire Chief Gene Beaubien and Deputy Fire Chief Bill Kimball met with the Selectboard to provide an update on the new brush truck. A Ford F450 chassis has been on order since November 2022 and the vendor, MHQ, has still not received a firm commitment from Ford that the truck will even be built. If Ford cancels the order, the price will increase and the clock will start all over again. However, MHQ currently has the next model down, an F350, available on their lot.

Kimball reported he has spoken with officers from other fire departments, as well as with members of the Environmental Police, and there is a strong consensus the F350 is big enough to meet Gill's needs as a brush truck and a tow vehicle for a boat and trailer. The F350 has a 5,000 pound towing capacity, and a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 18,000 pounds. Price-wise, the F450 chassis is \$83,606 and the F350 is \$78,209.

Charles made a motion, seconded by Randy, to authorize the Fire Department to change the vehicle on order from the Ford F450 to a Ford F350 while keeping the amount authorized for the purchase unchanged at \$83,606. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. Kimball and Beaubien left the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Expanding Membership on Sewer Commission: Ray provided an update to the Selectboard and interested residents from the Riverside neighborhood regarding the process to expand the makeup of the Sewer Commission by adding two appointed members to serve with the three members of the Selectboard. Ray and Town Clerk Doreen Stevens reviewed town meeting minutes and town election results from 1973 to 1983 searching for votes related to the Sewer Commission, and found an August 3, 1976 special town meeting vote and a May 2, 1977 town election vote. Both votes authorized the Selectboard to act as the Sewer Commission. With the two votes the Town was essentially following the process outlined in Massachusetts General Laws chapter 41 section 21. Ray stated he believes a similar two vote process will be needed to add the two appointed members of the Sewer Commission, and he will confirm this with Town Counsel.

Chris Pelletier, reporting on behalf of Jeff Suprenant, informed the Selectboard that Suprenant had spoken with Chelsey Little, the Superintendent at Montague's Clean Water Facility (aka sewage treatment plant). Suprenant received information about a grant Montague received to purchase equipment. The same type of equipment may be useful for the Riverside sewer pump station to help deal with the pumps getting bound up by clothing and other fabric that is flushed into the sewer system. Pelletier will scan the information and send it to Ray. Pelletier, Conway, and Dumas left the meeting at 5:50 PM. King left the meeting at 5:50 PM.

Tree Warden Updates: Joe Williams, who was elected as Tree Warden in the May 15, 2023 town election, met with the Selectboard to discuss his statutory role in the process of selecting, cutting, and removing trees from within the Town-owned right-of-ways. It was noted since 1978, when Ernie Hastings was first elected Tree Warden, there has been significant overlap of tree-related duties and/or responsibilities between the Tree Warden, Highway Superintendent, and Highway Department. It was also tensely pointed out that while the Tree Warden is legally responsible for supervising municipal tree workers, the Town's Highway Department employees are not "municipal tree workers," and do not take direction from the Tree Warden. There will need to be further conversations about roles and responsibilities with respect to tree work.

Megan Bathory Peeler joined the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Williams informed the Selectboard of his desire to attend a 6-module course being offered this fall by the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association. Charles made a motion, seconded by Randy, to authorize

spending \$600 from the Trees & Forestry budget to cover the cost of the Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden Course. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. Williams left the meeting at 6:03 PM.

Use of ImageCast Tabulator: Town Clerk Doreen Stevens met with the Selectboard to request their approval of her plan to use the new ImageCast vote tabulator for all future state elections and continue to hand count all local elections. She explained the turnout for local elections tends to be low enough that hand counting is not a big deal and saves the Town the expense of programming the tabulator and printing special ballots for use with the tabulator. Charles made a motion, seconded by Randy, to authorize the use of the new tabulator for all future state elections and to hand count all local elections. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed. The Selectboard signed a notice to the State Elections Bureau informing the Bureau of the decision. Stevens left the meeting at 6:08 PM.

Joint Appointment of Library Trustee: Megan Bathory Peeler, one of the two elected Trustees of the Slate Memorial Library, met with the Selectboard and requested that Jake Morrow, of Gilder Way on the Northfield Mount Hermon campus, be appointed to the Trustee position that became vacant when Tara Savoie moved out of town. Vacancies in elected boards are filled by a joint vote of the Selectboard and the remaining members of the board. The appointments last until the next town election. Charles made a motion, seconded by Randy, to appoint Jake Morrow as a Library Trustee through May 20, 2024. Bathory Peeler voted with the Selectboard and the motion was approved by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed.

An agenda item regarding the possible expansion of the number of Library Trustees from 3 to 5 was determined to be unnecessary. There had been some confusion regarding the number of Trustees who needed to be present in order to conduct a meeting. As only two of the three Trustees are required to form a quorum and hold a meeting, Bathory Peeler advised the Selectboard there was no longer a need to consider expanding the number of Trustees. Bathory Peeler left the meeting at 6:14 PM.

Review of Minutes: No minutes were ready for review.

Route 2 Updates: Randy reported the installation of safety barriers on the French King Bridge is complete, although some project wrap-up work still remains at the site. He remembered it was roughly 14 years ago when he started the quest to make it harder for people to commit suicide by jumping off the bridge, and thereby make it safer for the many first responders who respond. He specifically thanked former State Representative Denise Andrews and Gold Star Mother Stacey Hamel for their support, perseverance, and activism.

Repairs to the washed out section of Route 2 in Gill near Factory Hollow are moving along quickly, and it is reported the detour will be ended and the road returned to two-way traffic by week's end. Randy praised the Mass. Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for their fast response and dedicated efforts to making the repairs and reopening a roadway that is so vital to commuters, tourists, and commerce.

Purchase Order for Spare Pump and Impellers: The Selectboard reviewed a memo from Highway Superintendent John Miner detailing the need to purchase a spare pump and two impellers for the sewer pump station in Riverside. Charles made a motion, seconded by Randy, to authorize the purchase, with the cost of the purchase to be approved by Ray. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

Fire Department Appointment: Charles made a motion, seconded by Randy, to appoint Diane Pedrosa as a Firefighter through June 30, 2024. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

Sewer Abatements: Ray presented three sewer abatement applications for approval: Karen & Mark Timberlake, \$97.67 for water used to top off a swimming pool; Linda Welcome, \$43.92 for water used for the summer startup of a swimming pool; and Jeff Suprenant, \$16.39 for water used to fill a spa. Charles made a motion, seconded by Randy, to approve the abatements as presented. The motion was approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

Mendoza and Savage left the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2024 warrant # 4 with totals of \$71,581.36 for vendors and \$38,125.02 for payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 08/28/2023

Greg Snedeker, Selectboard Clerk

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard <administrator@gillmass.org>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 12:17 PM
To: Peter Conway; Jeff Suprenant; Davy Conway; Chris Pelletier; Charles Garbiel (charlesgill42@yahoo.com); 'Greg Snedeker (gksnedeker@gmail.com)'; 'Randy Crochier (hxydad77@yahoo.com)'
Subject: update on adding members to Sewer Commission

Good afternoon,

Please share this email with Zeke Dumas, as I don't have an email address for him.

Also, just a reminder, please don't engage in a "Reply All" discussion of this email. The Open Meeting Law prohibits a public body, i.e. the Selectboard, from engaging in discussion outside of a posted public meeting. An email reply that is sent to all members or a majority of a board/committee has the potential to become a violation of the Open Meeting Law, and we don't need/want that!

I had another conversation this week with Donna MacNicol, the Town's attorney, and we've ironed out the process for adding two appointed members to the Sewer Commission. It's not complicated, however, it's not immediate, either.

As I reported at the August 14th Selectboard meeting, Doreen Stevens (Town Clerk) and I found the records of an August 3, 1976 town meeting vote to authorize the Selectboard to act as Sewer Commissioners and a May 2, 1977 ballot vote at the annual town election that also approved the Selectboard to act as Sewer Commissioners. Essentially, the Town followed the process laid out in Mass. General Law chapter 41, section 21.

To add two appointed members as Sewer Commissioners, we will need to have a town meeting vote (which can be done at a special town meeting held at least 60 days before the May 20, 2024 annual town election). The ballot for the May 20, 2024 town election will need to include a question "Shall the town vote to have its selectmen appoint two additional members of the sewer commission? Yes/No." Assuming both votes are approved (simple majority), the Selectboard could make the appointments effective July 1, 2024. (I strongly encourage keeping the terms of the appointments in sync with the July 1 – June 30 terms of the majority of our other appointed positions.)

A few other points:

- The town meeting vote can happen at a special town meeting. The ballot vote must be part of the annual town election.
- Between now and the special town meeting, the next step is to decide on the wording of the article to be voted upon at the town meeting. Essentially, this vote will become a town bylaw on the makeup of the Sewer Commission. Once approved, the only way the bylaw gets changed is by another town meeting vote, so it's a good idea to keep the article/bylaw focused on the important basics.
- Here's a first draft of the article. I've tried to include the ideas and goals we've discussed, but also build in flexibility in case interest in being on the Sewer Commission wanes, or if a business owner or Stoughton Place rep wants to join.

To see if the Town shall vote to amend the membership of the Sewer Commission from the three elected members of the Board of Selectmen to five members, of which three members shall be the elected members of the Board of Selectmen, and two members shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. In making the appointments, the Board of Selectmen shall give preference to qualified applicants who meet one or more of the following criteria: 1) is a resident- or non-resident-owner of real estate served by the Riverside Sewer

System; 2) is a tenant of real estate served by the Riverside Sewer System; 3) is an owner or an owner-designated employee of a business served by the Riverside Sewer System; and 4) is the appointed representative of any agency that owns real estate served by the Riverside Sewer System. Qualified applicants for appointment do not need to be residents of Gill. In the event there are no qualified applicants, the Board of Selectmen may appoint any resident of Gill they deem to be qualified to serve in the position. For the two appointed members, one shall be appointed for an initial term of two years and the other for an initial term of three years. Thereafter, terms shall be for three years. The Board of Selectmen may fill any vacancies in the appointed members of the Sewer Commission and the Board of Selectmen shall have the authority to remove an appointed member of the Sewer Commission. Or take any action relative thereto.

Ray

Ray Purington
Town Administrator
Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354
P: 413 863 9347 F: 413 863 7775
administrator@gillmass.org www.gillmass.org



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

AMENDMENT #1
to the
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
by and between the
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
and the
Town of Gill
for
**Legal Services related to the FERC Relicensing of the
Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls Hydroelectric Facilities**

As allowed by ARTICLE 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding executed on August 25, 2022 between the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the towns of Gill, Erving, Montague and Northfield hereby amend the terms of the Agreement, effective August 15, 2023:

1. Amendment to ARTICLE 2 - TERM OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: Extend the term of the MOU until September 30, 2024 to provide additional legal services related to the FERC relicensing of the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls hydroelectric facilities.
2. Amendment to ARTICLE 3 - PAYMENTS TERMS: Gill will contribute an additional \$2,500 for legal services. This will bring the total contribution of Gill to \$5,000. Any unspent funds received from Gill remaining on September 30, 2024 will be distributed to Gill.
3. Amendment to ARTICLE 3 - PAYMENTS TERMS: The FRCOG financial contribution toward FERC legal services will be determined by renegotiation and extension of scope of services with Attorney Ronald Shems of Tarrant, Gillies & Shems, and upon the approval and appropriation of additional funding by the FRCOG Council.

All other provisions of the original Memorandum of Understanding remain in effect.

IN WITNESS thereof, the FRCOG and the Town have executed this AMENDMENT effective as of the date above written:

For the FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director

Date

TOWN OF GILL

Town Administrator

Date

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) does not discriminate on the basis of disability with respect to admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication with respect to programs and services of the FRCOG should contact the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Coordinator civilrights@frcog.org.

For FRCOG Use Only

MOU Amendment Reviewed by Finance: _____ Account Line # 01-003-4800 _____

MOU Amendment Reviewed by Procurement: _____

Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers
Be It Known That
Massachusetts Accredited Assessor
No. 1432

Is Hereby Conferred Upon

Diane Sumrall

On June 28, 2023

*In Recognition Of Having Successfully Completed
The Prescribed Requirements For Such Designation*



MAAO President



Chairman,

MAAO Professional Admissions Committee



*Commissioner,
Department of Revenue*



*Senior Deputy Commissioner,
Department of Revenue*



Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District

Summer Update: August 2023



Surveillance Update: Collection numbers have had a significant increase, primarily due to the record setting rainfall we experienced in July. Floodwater species such as *Psorophora ferox* and *Aedes trivittatus* made up most of the collections across Franklin, Hampshire, and Hamden Counties. Both species of mosquitoes are very aggressive biters, however, neither are of any medical importance nor have been implicated as vectors for arbovirus. EPI week 28 had an increase in *Culex* species (WNV vectors) by 97%. This increase in *Culex* species has steadily remained relatively high through EPI week 31. The substantial rainfall has most certainly had in impact *Culex* species.

WNV Update: To date Pioneer Valley surveillance traps have detected WNV positive mosquitoes in West Springfield (2x), Hadley, South Hadley, Holyoke, and Granby. *Culex pipiens/restuans* have made up all of the WNV positive pools. This particular species will utilize catch basins, stagnant/bacteria rich water, artificial containers such as buckets, kiddie pools, green swimming pools, wheelbarrows, etc. The recent rainfall has added water to many artificial containers, and as a result, they have become ideal habitat for *Culex pipiens/restuans*. *Culex* lay their eggs in rafts consisting of 100-300 eggs (figure 1). Just one female mosquito can produce up to 300 larvae. This is why it is imperative to get the word out to residents to empty any standing water on their property. Please see the links on page 2 for public education materials created by the MA Department of Public Health, which may be used for distribution. Additionally, two MA DPH fliers are included in the newsletter on pages 3 and 4.

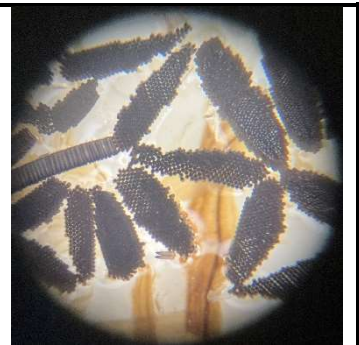


Figure 1: A "small" collection of *Culex* eggs taken from a 5-gallon bucket. Each egg raft can produce up to 300 mosquito larvae.

Surveillance Strategy: Upon confirming a WNV positive collection of mosquitoes, I create a 1-mile radius around the trap site (figure 2). This is based on *Culex pipiens/restuans* flight range which is rarely over a mile. Most of their blood meals are close by and do not require much distance to travel to. Supplemental Gravid traps that specifically target *Culex pipiens/restuans* are rotated weekly and placed around the perimeter of the 1-mile flight radius to determine the extent of the virus. This strategy is also implanted in bordering member communities where the flight radius overlaps.

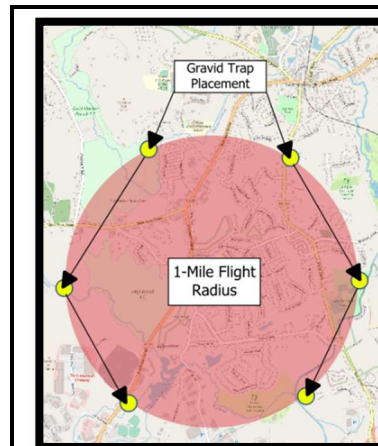


Figure 2: Example of a flight radius drawn around a trap site using GIS software. Additional Gravid traps are placed around the perimeter to determine the extent of the virus. Note: this is not an example of an actual WNV+ location.

NOAA Long-Term Weather outlook (August through September): NOAA predicts equal chances of leaning above or below normal temperatures (figure 3); and precipitation has equal chances of leaning above or below (figure 4). The Farmer’s Almanac is predicting a drier September and cooler temperatures.

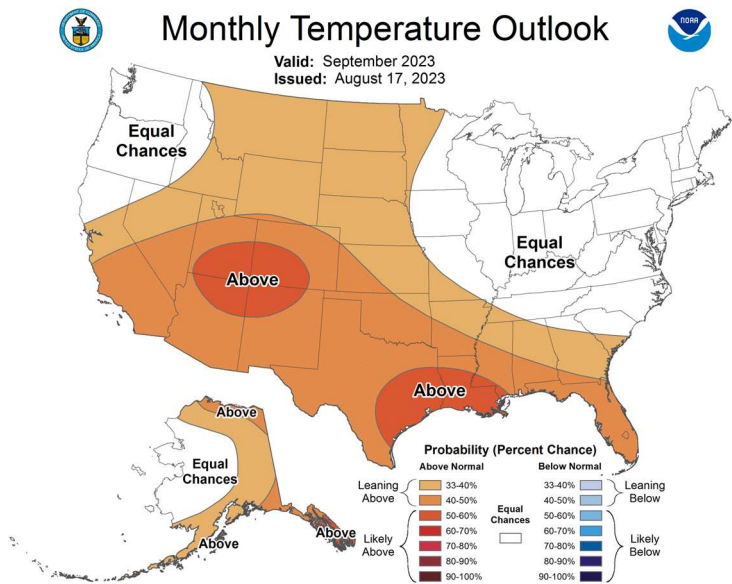


Figure 3: Seasonal Temperature Outlook. NOAA, 2023.

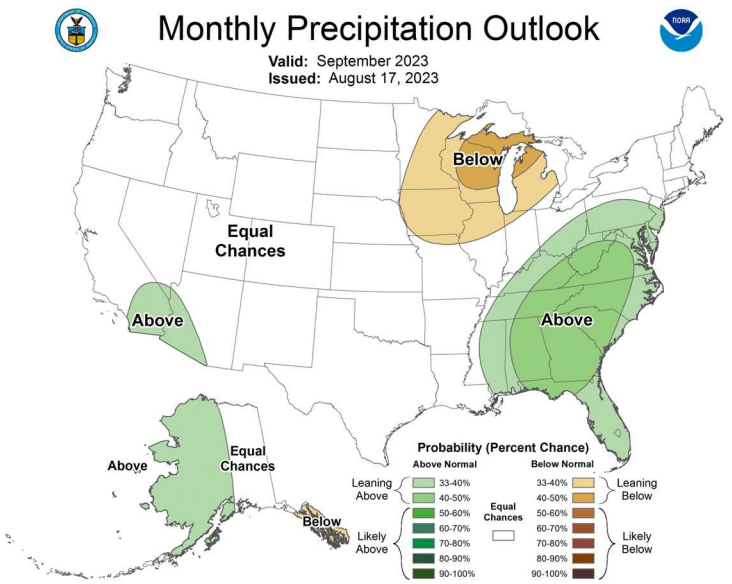


Figure 4: Seasonal Precipitation Outlook. NOAA, 2023.

Getting the Message Out: Now that West Nile Virus has been confirmed in several communities within Pioneer Valley, it is especially important to emphasize the use of bug repellants (EPA approved) that contain DEET or eucalyptus oil, wearing long sleeves and pants, and avoiding outdoor activities around dusk and dawn.

Ticks and Rainfall: Like mosquitoes, ticks also benefit from increased rainfall and humid conditions. The following link from UMass can be used as a valuable resource for anything tick-related: <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/information-regarding-ticks-tick-borne-diseases>. A second peak wave of ticks can be expected in the Fall.

Looking Ahead: This will most likely be the last update of the season. I plan to start working on the end of season surveillance reports in late September and should have them ready to be delivered by mid-October. Any communities with WNV positives will receive a map, showing the general area where virus was found. Additionally, a map will be provided to member communities, showing the general area that each trap site covers and its proximity to specific mosquito habitat.

Public Education materials from MA Department of Public Health:	MA DPH West Nile Virus Fact Sheet https://www.mass.gov/info-details/west-nile-virus-wnv
	MA DPH Bug Spray Posters for Kids (includes ticks) https://www.mass.gov/doc/four-poster-set-mosquitos-and-ticks/download
	MA DPH Mosquito Prevention Poster (multiple languages available) https://massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us/PROG-BID/TM3939kit.html

Please feel free contact me via email john.c.briggs@mass.gov or phone (401)580-6397 with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Briggs, District Director

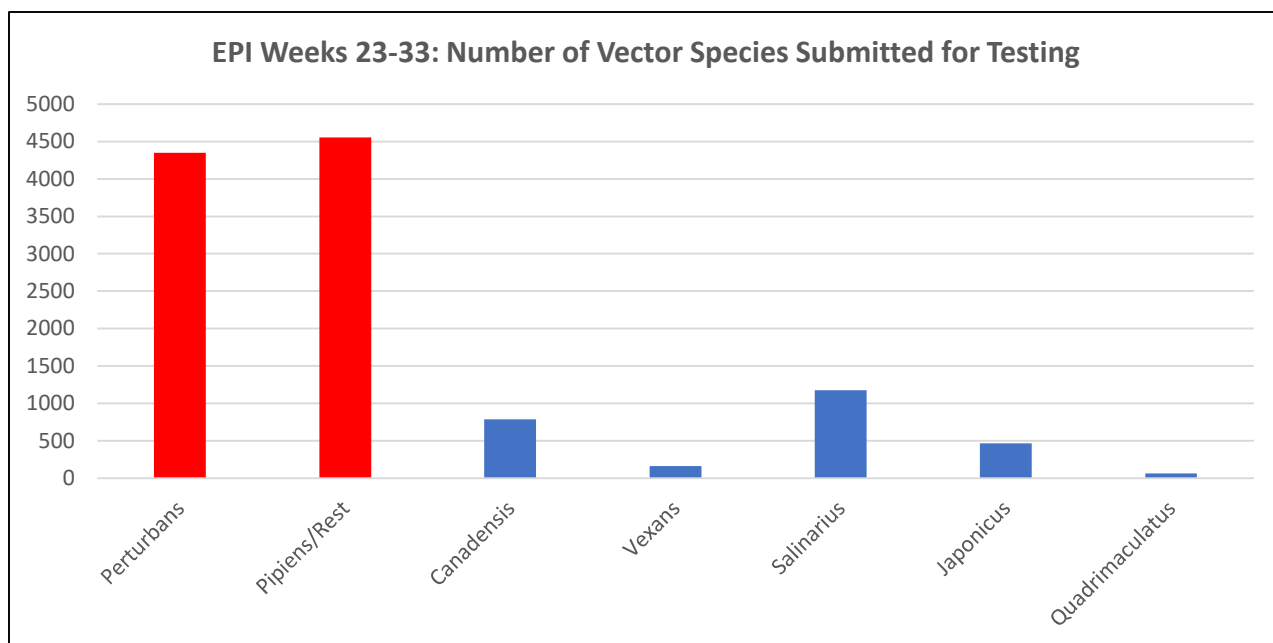


PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

Pioneer Valley MCD 2023 Surveillance Summary

EPI Week	Number of Pools Submitted	Results
23	3	All Negative
24	15	All Negative
25	17	All Negative
26	31	All Negative
27	49	All Negative
28	58	1 WNV+
29	63	1 WNV+
30	62	2 WNV+
31	58	1 WNV+
32	50	1 WNV+
33	53	TBD
Total	459	6 WNV+

County	Number of WNV+ Pools
Franklin	0
Hampshire	3
Hampden	3





Protect Yourself from Mosquitoes



Mosquitoes can spread diseases that make you very sick.
Take steps to prevent mosquito bites.

Use an EPA-approved repellent anytime you're outdoors.



Wear long pants, long sleeves and socks to reduce exposed skin outdoors.



Repair torn screens early in the season to keep mosquitoes outdoors.



Remove standing water around the house to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.



Dusk to dawn is peak biting time for mosquitoes that carry disease.



Know your risk: stay informed throughout mosquito season.

For more information about each of these important steps, go to:
www.mass.gov/MosquitoesAndTicks



Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Infectious Disease, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization

TN2023



Protéjase de los Mosquitos



Los mosquitos pueden propagar enfermedades muy graves.
Tome precauciones para evitar las picaduras de mosquitos.

Use un repelente aprobado por la Agencia de Protección Ambiental Estadounidense (EPA) cuando se encuentre al aire libre.



Al salir, vista pantalones largos, mangas largas y medias para reducir la piel expuesta.



Repare las mallas de puertas y ventanas apenas comienza la temporada para mantener a los mosquitos afuera.



Quite el agua estancada que esté alrededor de su casa para evitar que los mosquitos se reproduzcan.



El momento de mayor actividad de los mosquitos que transmiten enfermedades es desde el atardecer hasta el amanecer.



Conozca los riesgos: permanezca informado durante la temporada de mosquitos.

Para obtener más información sobre estas importantes precauciones, visite:
www.mass.gov/MosquitoesAndTicks



Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts
Oficina de Enfermedades Infecciosas, División de Epidemiología e Inmunización

10/2016